~~CLAIMS~~ WHAT IS CLAIMED IS: and By

1. A method of continuous metering of bulk material from a container (2) with a rotary-vane feeder (4) and a metering device (8) following the rotary-vane feeder (4), characterized in that the discharge rate of the metering device (8) relative to the feed rate of the preceding rotary-vane feeder (4) is adjusted to a smaller value, so that return feed from the rotary-vane feeder (4) to the container (2) takes place.

2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the adjustment or regulation is effected taking into account the filling state of an intermediate container (5) between the rotary-vane feeder (4) and the metering device (8).

3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the discharge regulation of the metering device (8) is effected by altering the speed of rotation of the metering device (8).

4. A method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that, in the case of pneumatic feed, the discharge regulation of the metering device (8) is effected by altering the air amount and/or the air speed.

5. Apparatus for continuous metering of bulk material from a container with a rotary-vane feeder and a metering device following the rotary-vane feeder, characterized in that the rotary-vane feeder (4) is coupled to the metering device (8) via a metering controller (10) and the mass flow at the rotary-vane feeder (4) is greater then the discharge rate of the metering device (8) for partial return feed of the bulk material to the container (2).

6. Apparatus according to claim 5, characterized in that the metering device (8) is also formed as a rotary-vane feeder.

7. Apparatus according to claim 5, characterized in that the metering device (8) is formed as a metering rotor scale (8').

8. Apparatus according to claim 5, characterized in that the metering device (8) is formed as a horizontal lock.

9. Apparatus according to any of claims 5 to 8, characterized in that the return feed cells (7) of the rotary-vane feeder (4) are filled to around 20 - 40%.

ADD A2